



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1876.

FREE SPEECH.—The speech of Hon. J. Randolph Tucker, of Virginia, in the House of Representatives, on Wednesday last, has been a fruitful theme for newspaper comment, and no speech has attracted more of the attention of the people of both sections for a long time. In tone and style it was different from the speeches delivered at the National Capitol in these latter days, and while it has been the text for abuse and denunciation on the part of the more bitter of the Radical press and politicians, no attempt has been made to answer its arguments, and we doubt if they could be satisfactorily answered. There are those, too, and some in Virginia, who are of opinion that this speech was imprudent and impolitic. It was to have been expected that a howl would go up at the North among the Radicals, when the keen blade of Mr. Tucker laid bare their "sentimental patriotism," and exhibited the shallowness of the foundation upon which their structure is built, and the superficial knowledge of those who would make a great show at the sacrifice of principle; but it was not expected that policy was to "rule the roost" in the South, and especially here in Virginia, where our people have suffered, and are willing to suffer everything to maintain right, and uphold the Constitution, and that persons would now turn upon him who yet dares to speak the truth, and condemn him on the score of policy, or cry Bourbons because he still looks aloft to that Paladium of liberty, and calls the people to look to it in order to save themselves from the demon of centralization and despotism, to whom so many "crook the pregnant hinges of the knee, that thrift may follow fawning." Is the time never to come again, when a man, because he comes from the South, is not to lift his voice in favor of the rights and privileges of the States without being denounced as a fossil, unfit to be trusted in public affairs, for fear that he may say something that may offend the tender sensibilities of those who have heretofore proved friends in prosperity, but in the hour of adversity only indifferently spectators. If it has come to pass that a constitutional point cannot be urged, and sustained too, without offense; if the Democratic party cannot stand the vindication of the rights of the States in contradistinction to the centralization of power in the Federal government, then it were better that its Representatives were not in Congress; and if the people are unwilling to bear their own rights sustained, then are they ready to pass under the yoke and become the slaves that they would be. Mr. Tucker knew of what he spoke; he was aware of the vantage ground he occupied, and when his arguments are met with the cry of impolicy, it only shows the weakness of the cause of his adversaries, and that timidity and fear have assumed sway. We have always been opposed to acts of aggression on the part of the South, or to her assuming any offensive position, believing that humility better became her under existing circumstances, but when she has been restored to her relations with the Federal government, that her Representatives in Congress should sit quietly and meekly and see the Constitution trampled under foot, and not dare open their mouths in behalf of the liberties of the people, would be to assume that which no Southern man is willing to accept.

Mr. Tucker has had the manliness to speak out his sentiments and those of the South, as well as of all true Democrats, and of those at the North who oppose the concentration of all power at the Federal Capital, and for this he deserves the thanks of the lovers of freedom throughout the land.

A CENTENNIAL CARNIVAL.—Whilst we are in favor of the Centennial celebration by the Philadelphians, still we take Mr. Tucker's view that Congress has no constitutional power to grant a subsidy to assist them. The Centennial, we believe, will in a measure advance the arts and sciences in the United States, but the immediate profit will all accrue to the Quaker City and we demur to this and think that this section should be made a centre of attraction also. There should be a grand carnival in Washington city—any time after the 4th of July—lasting three or four days. It would draw thousands of foreign visitors as well as a vast assemblage of our own population, and would throw thousands upon thousands of dollars into our midst. It would give an impetus to trade, and would show the Capital to the world in its most beautiful time; when its avenues of trees and its many parks would be radiant in their rare loveliness.

That such an enterprise would be a grand success none can doubt. The carnival at the National Capital on February 22, 1871, was a very grand affair, but can be improved upon, and Washington is far excellence the city for outside and out of door pleasures; its wide boulevards, its magnificent streets, brilliantly lighted, its smooth paved and broad sidewalks and roadways, all would make a carnival there what the "Mad" is in New Orleans.

Another thing in its favor is its close proximity to Philadelphia—only four and a half hours ride by rail, and the desire of all foreigners to witness the National Capital would bring them there in crowds.

Of course Philadelphia will object to this, but as the Exposition lasts four months, Washington would be justified in having the vast crowd in her midst for only four days.

The bill introduced in the House of Representatives yesterday by Mr. Hutton, alluded to in the Gazette of that day, and referred to the Committee on War Claims, authorizes all loyal persons interested from December, 1861, to

August, 1865, in the Pioneer Mills and wharf adjoining, located in Alexandria, Va., to bring suit in the Court of Claims for use by the United States army of the same. This is the same bill which was favorably reported upon by the Committee on War Claims in June, 1874, but not acted on by the House.

The case of Dr. Helmbold is getting to be as bad as that of Sergeant Bates or of Rev. Mr. Beecher. A commission of lunacy has now been appointed to "sit" on him, and on the application of his father he was yesterday granted his freedom again. If he'd only kill somebody the courts would declare him insane at once.

The illness of Autouelli, will, if it results fatally, prove of some consequence to the Roman Church, for the aged Cardinal has assisted it so long that his support will be missed.

Gambetta is not radical enough for the Radicals of Paris.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

The Richmond Election Row—Committee Men Almost Crazy—Judge Stevens—The Montpelier Association—Senator Smith Moves to Repeal the Charter, &c., &c.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Jan. 24, 1876.

To-morrow will be a day of excitement in this city. The committee in the Johnson and Knight contested election case will report. It is rumored that the committee stand four to three for Johnson, three for sending the election back to the people and one for seating Knight. If the committee really does stand in this way, then Knight will be seated. I fear however, that Johnson will be seated by one majority—not that I dislike Johnson, but I love Richmond more. I should not be seated, I mean, I fear that the committee will report by one majority in favor of seating Johnson, but it may be doubtful whether the Senate will adopt that report. Two reports—majority and minority, will be submitted. The members of the committee having this grave matter in charge have been through enough to kill them. In addition to hearing a lot of dry evidence, they have been tormented by numerous anonymous letters from the friends of parties on both sides. Ladies have taken an active part in this kind of correspondence, hoping by feminine epithets of an endearing kind to soften the hearts of obdurate legislative committee-men. Vain essay.

The following letter was to-day sent to a member:

"I would recommend to those who have bills to put through the Legislature to send the finest carriage that can be hired, if they have not one of their own, to the hotel of the leading Senator, with a note, saying: 'Mrs. A. will oblige a friend by taking a drive this pleasant afternoon.' This is a happy effect! Next morning walk through the public grounds with the wife of the Senator, and the work is nearly done. About midnight, meet the Senator on the bridge, (the 'bridge of sighs') it will be to more than one politician, that connects the big houses, and, in a quiet corner, under the molting influences of the champagne you have already given him, the work is not difficult, if you are smart, and not a Virginian."

It is said that the Committee on Courts of Justice will in a day or two proceed to investigate the affairs of Judge Stevens who is charged with gambling, and also with lodging in Worsham's gambling house and other offenses in this connection, not exactly consistent with a State officer. It is said that the Governor will not except Judge Stevens' resignation until such investigation is had.

In the Senate, to-day, Mr. Smith, of Nelson, introduced a bill to repeal the charter of the Montpelier Female Humane Association, granted by the Circuit Court of Orange co., also a bill to repeal the act approved April 15, 1874, entitled an act to incorporate the Montpelier Humane Association, and asked that these bills might have a second reading to-day; but as he did not think that there were a sufficient number of Senators present, asked that they might be referred, which was done. In offering these bills, Mr. Smith said:

In offering these bills it is due to myself and others to state that it is far from my purpose to reflect in the slightest degree upon the character and integrity of any gentleman connected with the Montpelier Humane Association. On the contrary, it is known to the public that a most thorough and searching investigation into the Association, resulted in a complete vindication of those managing and controlling its operation from any wrong intention or criminality; whatever in their conduct, and that the Association and the ticket-holders to its concert given were the victims of irresponsible swindlers from New York, who being secure from the jurisdiction of our criminal laws, must go unpunished. From the formation of the Association in May, '74, up to within a few days past, I have known almost nothing of its matters, never having attended any of the meetings of its trustees since its organization, nor had anything whatever to do with its management. In justice to those who have managed and directed the affairs of this scheme, laudable in its purposes and ends, I am induced to state that it is entirely out of their power, as matters now stand, to extricate and disembarass it from the overwhelming crush inflicted upon it last fall by the Northern defrauders, and having exhausted their utmost endeavors to do so, they must stand before the public completely acquitted of anything improper or dishonorable. Nothing more can be done, nor should be expected. And may I be pardoned for suggesting that if the press and public will restrain all hasty and harsh judgment, in due time the Vice-President of the Association, who is a member of the House of Delegates, will pass triumphantly through the very trying ordeal to which he is now so unfortunately subjected, and full reparation will be made by him and his friends, thereby exonerating and reinstating him in the estimation of all reasonable and charitable men.

It will be observed that the proper reservations are made in their bills of repeal as to enable the Association to recover debts due it from its agents and others, and the legal rights and remedies of its creditors are not disturbed or infringed by repeal. Able counsel have been employed for the Association, and all its matters will be wound up as speedily as possible. Therefore, I hope these measures will be passed promptly, that newspaper publications may cease, and the General Assembly be vindicated for its protection of the public weal.

In the House, to-day, the following were passed:

Senate bill: To confer upon the Corporation Court of Alexandria jurisdiction to remove justices and constables of said city from office; to prohibit the sale, exchange and purchase of corporate property by the supervisors any county, except with the approval and ratification of the County Court; to amend Code as to procuring abortions and miscarriages; to repeal section 23, chapter 91 of Code, in relation to pilots; to amend act to make valid the charter of the Virginia Savings Bank of Lynchburg; to confirm the title of Alexander Coke to certain land in Princess Anne county; to extend the police jurisdiction of the city of Alexandria; to amend Code as to rewards for persons charged with offences; to amend act to author-

ize the town of Fredericksburg to issue bonds to pay her ante war debt; authorizing R. R. Hutchinson, of Accomac, to erect a wharf on Pungotague Creek.

STRONGBOW.

Letter from New York.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 24.—The improvement in securities of all kinds has continued from last week, and New York Central stock, which Gould and his Twenty-third-street gang predicted was not earning interest on its bonded debt, advanced to 112, the highest it has ever reached. The receipts of this great Company will not fall much short this year of thirty millions of dollars, and the best efforts of bad men have not succeeded in injuring the greatest corporation in America, and, at which their attacks were hard and frequent. But for this stock sustaining itself we verily believe another very heavy decline would have resulted in all kinds of securities. The Western Union Telegraph Company, another of our best corporations, very prosperous, and doing a magnificent business, is cried down by Gould, and the woman the public begins to purchase this stock some rumors come out injurious to the Company. This week some members of Congress offered a resolution about the Government building telegraph lines. This was at once seized upon, and a decline in the stock was the result, as if the Government of the United States had not quite enough now to do without going into the telegraph business, especially as the English Government have tried the same thing at a very heavy loss. The sooner our Congressmen find out they are elected to act for the good of the people, and not to favor stock jobbing the better. We wish it to be known that the Western Union is one of the best managed, and best paying corporations in the country and in time, those who persevere and hold on to this stock, will be richly rewarded.

The Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company is also doing well, and the stock is far too low, but Gould controls it, and as he poisons everything he touches so he does this good stock. The stock should be at 50. It kept by him at 18. We learn there is a party forming of honest men who are buying up this stock, with a view of dispensing with Mr. Gould and his followers at the next election. We hope this plan may be carried out, and that this poisonous man, Gould, will be rooted out and made to take a back seat. Could he be driven from Wall street there would be rejoicing among hundreds of men upon whom he has brought ruin.

The whiskey rings here has not yet been indicted, but they are trembling in their shoes, even those who ventured in this illicit business a few years ago, but are now among the leading stock dealers.

The cigar firms feel very blue. Their load is very heavy, and the banks begin to feel timid about the paper of such houses as are known to be heavily loaded. The stock of office is two times greater than it was this time last year, and then we had plenty. We may see lively times yet, should this great staple make a heavy fall.

The news of the week is scant, our daily papers floundering hard work to fill their columns, and they are quite devoid of interest.

Hon. Charles O'Connor has been snatched from the very jaws of death. He now sits up and reads, and is quite like the great lawyer once again.

We see Maine has already nominated Blaine for the Presidency. 'Tis a good thing (Maine) is not the whole country, or we might have the dynamite man in the White House. No! Maine and Blaine, we hope, will not be invited to Washington, but stay at home and attend to their own affairs.

It is very hard to snow Saturday, but only a little fall. So far no snow this winter; very unusual season in this; 'tis Centennial and leap year combined. It ought to be different from others.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Virginia Senate yesterday insisted on its amendment to House bill relative to pay of Penitentiary Store-keeper, and also to its amendment to bill to provide artificial limbs for Confederate soldiers.

The Governor transmitted a communication recommending the favorable consideration of the application from the United States Government for the cession of jurisdiction by the State over certain lands occupied as National cemeteries at Alexandria, Ball's Bluff, City Point, Culpeper, Fredericksburg, Poplar Grove, Richmond, Seven Pines, Staunton and Yorktown.

Mr. Finney presented a resolution requiring Virginia railroads to construct switches or turn-outs every two and a half miles.

A resolution was presented requesting formation of the Supreme Court of Appeals as to the progress made by it in the preparation of the rules regulating practice and pleading in the courts of this Commonwealth, and establishing the forms thereof, in accordance with an act of Assembly heretofore passed.

In the House, among Senate bills referred, was one allowing the salary of the Hastings Court Judges of Norfolk and Portsmouth to be increased by those towns.

Bill regulating the practice of medicine and surgery was ordered to be printed.

Bill was passed amending the Code in relation to pilots.

Bill incorporating the Richmond Harmonic Association, and to change its name, was ordered to its third reading.

The Committee of Courts of Justice was authorized to send for persons and papers in the case of Judge Aylett Nichols. The committee will consider this case next Wednesday week.

The report of Committee on Privileges and Elections, in the contested election case of Gilliam against Page, from the county of Prince George, seating the latter, was presented. Mr. Lovell presented a minority report, seating Gilliam. The reports were passed by and ordered to be printed.

The report of the same committee in the contested election case of White against Hudgins came up, but was passed by.

The Governor transmitted the semi-annual report of the Virginia Military Institute, recommending such action towards relieving the present embarrassment of that institution as may be justified by the condition of the treasury. Accompanying the report is a memorial petition of the Virginia Military Institute and Convention of the United States for a specific grant of two hundred thousand acres of public lands, in remembrance for losses sustained by the destruction of the buildings and other State property by the army of General D. Hunter in 1864. The report and petition were ordered to be printed.

As will be seen by reference to the Richmond letter in to-day's Gazette, Mr. Smith, in his speech in the Virginia Senate, yesterday, said that full reparation will be made by Mr. Fowle for the Montpelier funds lost by him. From another source we also learn that the deficit due the association has already been made up.

Our Fisheries.

[From the American Farmer.]

By the merest accident I have at last rectified a copy of the pamphlet upon the "Value of the Potomac Fisheries," published in 1853, by the late Colonel John A. Washington, for which I advertised in your paper in April.

Colonel Washington gives about the same number of fisheries that I do, (72). His valuation and mine, strange to say, with the advance in prices of everything added, would so nearly accord that it might be supposed to be done by the same hand.

The pamphlet is too long to be published in your paper, therefore I send you a brief synopsis of the most interesting portions of it. Col. Washington, after giving the name and expense of each shore and the catch of fish, sums up the whole in two tables, thus:

Maryland shores, 23	Virginia shores, 17
\$16,900 rent.	\$19,715 rent.
\$70,050 expense fish-	\$63,700 expense fish-
ing.	ing.
1,098 men—65 horses, 900 men—59 horses,	
41 vessels—107 men, 51 vessels—125 men,	
486,500 catch of shad, 547,000 catch of shad,	
16,400,000 catch her-	1,500,000 catch her-
ring.	ring.
\$3,350 offal fish.	\$11,000 offal fish.

In this valuation the price of shad and herring is not noticed; why, I cannot tell. From memory I would say that shad sold from \$5 to \$10, herrings from \$2 to \$3. To-day the above prices are more than doubled. The fishing interest in 1853 has, according to Col. Washington, depreciated 50 per cent.

It is due to this subject to say that Colonel Washington leveled his shafts in this pamphlet against the gill-netting, laying the cause of the depreciation of fish to that mode of fishing. That was not true. The fact in the case is, the falling off of fish was the cause of gill-netting. When the owners of fishing shores could no longer rent to riparian fishermen, they naturally could not rent to whomsoever they could. The truth is, all hands have helped in the universal destruction of fish.

At that time (1853) I suggested to Colonel Washington the necessity of making some effort to protect the fish otherwise than by forbidding one method of fish-ing and encouraging the other. I also suggested the raising of fish (then thought feasible), to which my lamented friend said, "It is a Yankee humbug," meaning the hatching of fish. Success next experience proves that I was correct. Consequently I claim that I am the oldest pisciculturist (theoretically) in the United States. I cannot dismiss this subject without a warning to the fishermen and fishing property holders to look to their interest.

It is not our commissioners only who are neglecting the shad and herring interest of the State for the increase of fancy fish; I have reason to believe that they are encouraging it to do so by scientific gentlemen elsewhere, in high places.

Yours truly,

OLIVER N. BRYAN.

Richmond News.

The Richmond Enquirer says: Among the visitors to the House of Delegates Friday, was Mr. Dade Hoar, of Stafford county, who called to see his representative, Mr. Moncure. He has not been in Richmond since 1828, and as he looked at the negroes occupying seats upon the floor, his expression was akin to that with which Jefferson, as Rip Van Winkle, looks upon the village of "Killing Waters," after his twenty years sleep.

The Journal says: It is generally believed that Judge Stevens will be impeached. As yet no steps have been taken in the House in reference to the matter, although it was fully expected that some action would have been taken in reference to the matter by that body to-day.

The News says: The proposition of the Auditor and Governor to put a State tax on whisky will be adopted, if at all, at the close of the session, when the "boys" who impose it will not be compelled to encounter the reproachful glances of those who mix up their morning snifters.

Despite all the talk, no measure has been proposed in the General Assembly yet which is likely to lead to a decrease in the per diem. The boys draw their little pay at noon every day with unflinching regularity, and will continue to do so.

[COMMUNICATED.]

"There is something rotten in the State of Denmark!" Can it be possible that we have fallen so low! two judges to be impeached at one time! The corruption of the age is proverbial we know, but that Virginia should be drawn into the slough and slum of public avarice, "thus laying her honor in the dust," is more than we can patiently endure. When men who are chosen to represent the interests of a people fall so far short of their duty, where are we to look for honesty and integrity? Shades of our forefathers arise! and pointing, with the finger of truth, to the records of your pure and unsullied fame, recall to the minds of those who are tempted from the right path the memory of the "better days," when men who held high positions in their country's service thought of other things than the accumulation of money. Alas! Now, like Iago, 'tis to put money in thy purse. The undignified position of some of our legislative members at present, to say nothing of the graver charges preferred against them, is all the pride within us, and we blush to think that the fair name and fame of our dear old Commonwealth should be less honored in her age than when she "put on her young strength."

O! degenerate sons, how can ye so ruthlessly destroy with your own hands what it cost your fathers so much to build! Our Legislature has so frequently come under the censure and ridicule of the press that we shrink from saying more than "We do think it is wrong in our duty."

[COMMUNICATED.]

It may be true, as your Richmond correspondent tells us, that legislative circles are satisfied with what they know concerning the lamentable affair of which he speaks; but, certainly, no satisfactory explanation of it has yet been given to the people of Alexandria, who are, at least, equally concerned. The writer of this, who was one of the earliest and warmest supporters of the delegate mentioned, and who secured for his nomination at least some votes, has conversed on the subject with a number of persons of judgment and influence, and finds the sentiment unanimous that the resignation by that delegate of the trust confided to him is due to those by whom he was elected. Indeed, it has been expected from day to day, until it is now feared that mistaken friendship has prevented an act which is as necessary as it is desirable. This communication is written with great reluctance and solely from a sense of public duty, for no one entertains kinder feelings for the delegate in question, or more sincerely regrets what has happened than

A VOTER.

Six monitors have been placed in commission at the Norfolk navy-yard, and can be made ready for service in a month.

David Robinson is appointed postmaster at Tackett's Mills, Stafford county, Va., vice J. W. Colbert, resigned.

FOREIGN NEWS.

A dispatch from Berlin says the Spanish Ministers at the various European courts have verbally informed those Governments that after the defeat of the Carlists, shortly expected, Spain hopes to quell the Cuban insurrection by increased reinforcements, and that no foreign complications are anticipated, as the United States has distinctly repudiated the idea of annexation, a step which would lead to the election of additional negro representatives to Congress.

The Mexican papers are still discussing the movements of Porfirio Diaz, anticipating his attempting a revolutionary movement. Troops have been sent to the Rio Grande to reinforce this; now there. A meteoric stone had fallen, destroying a jail for women at San Gabriel Chilo.

The result of the French Senatorial elections will not be known for several days yet. The Republicans of Paris are endeavoring to compromise their difficulties, so that the entire delegation from the city shall not be entirely Radical.

Japan and China advices have been received by the arrival of the City of Tokio at San Francisco. One thousand houses were burned at Soochow, China. The Ambassadors designated for England will not leave Peking till spring.

The German Reichstag has passed the amendment to the Civil Code providing for the punishment of such offences as that of Thomas.

A series of letters written by Prince Bismarck have been published to counteract the effect of Von Arnim's pamphlet.

Severe storms at San Domingo are reported, by which the Dominican man-of-war Montrose and three merchant vessels were wrecked.

Three earthquake shocks occurred at St. Thomas on the 7th instant.

Conspiracy to get rid of Prince Milan, of Serbia is mooted.

Congress.

The following proceedings of Congress yesterday are additional to those published in the Gazette of that date:

In the Senate, Senator Jones, of Nevada, occupied his seat for the first time this session. Mr. Morton presented a bill to establish a mint at Lodiapolis, which was referred to the Finance Committee. Wednesday next was agreed upon for considering resolutions of respect to the late Senator Ferry. Mr. Morton's Mississippi resolutions came up, but that gentleman being unable to resume his remarks, the resolutions of Mr. Davis, of West Virginia, for an investigation of the books of the Treasury Department, were taken up. Mr. Davis opposed the amendment to refer the matter to the Finance Committee. He insisted that Mr. Boutwell had not noticed several discrepancies cited in his speech on the subject. In 1870 the indebtedness of the Government on account of the Pacific railroads, which had been included in Secretary McCulloch as part of the public debt, was struck out and the Administration had the credit of a large reduction of the public debt, which was not real. The amendment finally prevailed, and as amended was agreed to. The bill to provide for a commission on the alcoholic liquor traffic was taken up and debated. Mr. Bayard opposed the bill, and offered an amendment in trusting the commission to inquire whether the use of opium as a substitute for liquor had not been increased by legislation on the subject. Mr. Sherman favored the bill, saying that he believed its passage would promote the common good. Mr. Bayard's amendment was negatived, and without further action the Senate adjourned.

In the House, bills were referred for funding the national debt and the legal tenders. One by Mr. Whitehouse provided for funding the legal tender notes in forty years' four per cent. gold bonds, at the rate of \$3,000,000 per month, to the amount of \$400,000,000. Mr. Lypham, of New York, submitted a bill to fix the time for the meeting of Congress on the first Monday in January, and a Constitutional amendment to change the Presidential term from the 4th of March to the 1st of May. Mr. Wilson offered a Constitutional amendment changing the Congressional term from the 4th of March to the 1st of January. Mr. Hurlbut presented a bill for cheaper transportation. It provides for a commission to subscribe for and build a railroad at the rate of \$12,000 per mile of single track on forty-five year construction bonds, guaranteeing five per cent. interest, with \$3,000 per mile for rolling stock, to be raised on bonds. The equipment at the rate to be \$75 locomotives and 17,000 cars. The whole cost of the road to be \$1,050,000, of which \$420,000 the Government is to guarantee interest at five per cent. The road is to extend from the Atlantic to the Ohio or Mississippi valleys. Mr. Morrison moved the reference of the evidence taken last session in reference to the Pacific Mail subsidy to the Judiciary Committee, which was adopted. The bill providing for the payment of interest on the 365 District of Columbia bonds was amended and passed. The debate on the Centennial bill will be resumed to-day, when the struggle will be decided, as the previous question is to be called at three o'clock.

Virginia Justice.

The Washington Republican of this morning contains the following perversion of the facts concerning the trial and conviction of Isaac Johnson, in the County Court, yesterday, upon a charge of breaking and entering the dwelling house of Mr. Wm. A. Young, in Alexandria county:

"VIRGINIA JUSTICE.—About a month ago Detective Coomes recovered a lot of stolen goods, consisting of kitchen ware and other household goods, taken from the house of Mr. Wm. Young, of Youngstown, Alexandria county, Virginia. The goods were found in the possession of a white woman in this city, and this led to the detection of a colored man named Johnson, a laborer on Mr. Young's farm, as the thief. Johnson was yesterday sentenced to ten years imprisonment in the penitentiary by the Alexandria County Court. The goods stolen were scarcely worth \$50."

This statement is calculated to mislead those not conversant with the true history of the case and does injustice to the jury, whose verdict, under the circumstances, was eminently right and proper. Isaac Johnson, the prisoner referred to, was an employee upon the farm of Mr. Young, and taking advantage of the latter's absence, he broke open the windows of the house and pilaged it in a most outrageous manner, throwing many articles of value upon the ground, where they were left as a ruse to turn suspicion upon other parties, and then conveyed such articles as he desired, amounting to over \$100 in value, in Mr. Young's wagon, to Washington, and gave them to a woman named Woodbeck. These were the facts proved at the trial yesterday.

The punishment for burglary under the Virginia statutes, and those of most of the other States, is death or confinement in the penitentiary, at the discretion of the jury, not less than five, nor more than eighteen years; and though the evidence in this case was conflicting

as to the time the offence was committed, yet if it could have been positively proven that it was committed at night, as there is every probability it was, then it would have been in the power of the jury to have imposed the extreme penalty of the law. No one who heard the evidence, and is familiar with the law upon this subject, doubts the justice and propriety of the verdict in this case.

THE PRESIDENT'S VIRGINIA FRIENDS.

Yesterday two gentlemen of Virginia, members of that intelligent, omniscient fraternity, sepiet, "the Press," whose business it is to know everything, and who hold themselves out as knowing a little more than everything, and, inter alia, the secret history of their own State, called upon President Grant, and by way of being extremely pleasant, opened the conversation by informing his Excellency that they had had the pleasure of voting for him for the Presidency twice in Virginia. Mr. Grant mildly suggested that as Virginia had only voted at one Presidential election since the war, the gentlemen's votes had probably not been counted. This interruption so disconcerted our friends of the press that they were unable to make any other important communications to his Excellency, but backed themselves out as best they could, and told the joke on themselves. Gentleman No. 1's name is suppressed by request. Gentleman No. 2 is Mr. Wm. Towce of the "Roanoke Valley," Mecklenburg county, Va.

VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS.—At a meeting of the Virginia State Republican Association,

held last night, Josiah Millard, esq., the President, in the chair, the following were elected members of the Association: William Hayes, B. W. Hunter, Francis M. Hunter, George Zucke and Samuel Parham. A resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee of three to prepare an address to the people of Virginia defining the status of the Republican party, stating what it has accomplished, and its determined course in the future, indorsing the course of Hon. James G. Blaine, and with the view of securing his nomination and election as President of the United States. A resolution was also adopted inviting Hon. W. H. Stowell and Hon. Jas. H. Platt to attend the next meeting and address the Association upon that occasion.—*Washington Republican.*

STRICTLY DISMISSED.—In the Supreme Court of the United States, yesterday, in the suit of Robert B. Bolling, plaintiff in error, vs. Gustavus Lerner, in error to the Supreme Court of Appeals of the State of Virginia, Mr. Chief Justice Waite delivered the opinion of the court, dismissing the writ of error in this case for want of jurisdiction.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette.

I noticed in your London letter of the 20th instant, among other matters, "Will Chalkley, Gillingham inform us if the present month of January is not similar to the same month in 1851?" In reply I will say that I was at that time carrying on under my immediate control one farm in New Jersey and one at Woodlawn, Va., and in that month my memoranda were made in New Jersey, which I will extract from.

The first memorandum, was made Jan. 25th, 1851, just 25 years ago. This day was the snowiest of the year, although much rain fell in New Jersey, and the farm at Woodlawn, Va., and in that month my memoranda were made in New Jersey, which I will extract from.

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